

Tennessee **ERNIE FORD** *Sings*
CIVIL WAR SONGS OF THE SOUTH



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TENNESSEE ERNIE FORD

T 1540

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sings Civil War Songs of the South

When the cannon boomed at Ft. Sumter and announced to the world that the Civil War had begun, the simple words of a Northern minstrel tune suddenly became the battle cry of the South:

In Dixie Land
I'll take my stand,
To live and die in Dixie.

Choosing "Dixie" as one of the songs in this fine musical salute to the Civil War South (a companion album features songs of the North) was no problem for Ernie Ford. But beyond this beloved tune there are a vast number of songs which reflect the hopes, gallantry, sorrows, and sentiments of the unsuccessful but still-proud secessionists. The war itself, with all of its bitterness and tragedy, was naturally the major subject matter for the songs of the bloody War

Between The States. But in spite of its grimness, or perhaps because of it, the Civil War encouraged a great deal of humor. Everything from political satire to the earthy gripings of the footsoldier found a combination of words and music that could raise the spirit and prove a point.

The wonderfully varied program of authentic Civil War songs selected by Ernie Ford for this album is the result of months of careful planning and research. Arranger Jack Fascinato, like Ernie, has approached the task of reproducing them with both a respect for history and a tasteful sense of the modern idiom. His inventive use of instruments (including banjo and harmonica) and a stirring chorus of voices complements superbly the incomparable voice of Ernie Ford, who again displays the warmth and versatility which has helped to make him one of the most beloved entertainers in America today.

side one

STONEWALL JACKSON'S WAY

One of the Civil War's most romantic figures was General Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson, who was accidentally shot to death by his own men during the battle of Chancellorsville. This rip-roaring tribute to the great Confederate hero was written by a newspaper correspondent during the course of the historic Battle of Antietam.

LORENA

Of all the sentimental songs which were sung around Rebel campfires, none was closer to the Southern heart than this romantic ballad. It became a traditional sound of the South, and not only was it mentioned frequently in "Gone With The Wind," but it also became part of the score for the classic film adaptation of Margaret Mitchell's memorable novel.

RIDING A RAID

The man whom General Lee once called "the eyes of my army" was dashing, handsome, hard-riding General J. E. B. Stuart, whose air of roughish gallantry made him the Civil War's most romantic figure. The tune for this exciting tale of a daring night ride with "Jeb" Stuart was borrowed from "Bonnie Dundee," a traditional Scottish air.

MARYLAND, MY MARYLAND

In an emotional plea for Maryland's lot with the Confederacy, James Randall, an English professor, wrote an earnest poem which was set to the familiar German melody "O, Tarry 'Til the Morning Comes." But despite the electric success of the song throughout the South, Maryland failed to secede. Here Ernie Ford and the chorus deliver a truly magnificent rendition of this beautiful song which has continued to live on for more than one-hundred years.

GOOBER PEAS

This rollicking favorite became popular in the waning days of the war. The goobers, as every Southerner knows, were plain, old-fashioned peanuts. When rations ran low, this common but nutritious fruit of the Southern soil became an everyday diet for the complaining but still singing Johnny Reb.

I CAN WHIP THE SCOUNDREL

This rousing ditty is a rather fierce, yet light-hearted utterance of Southern determination. One verse refers with pride to the failure of the Union's Florida campaign in 1864, while another belittles Abe Lincoln and sings the praises of Jefferson Davis.

side two

THE BONNIE BLUE FLAG

Here was another song that was plucked from the minstrel stage and unfurled on the battlefields of the South. Written in Mississippi by vaudvillian Harry Macarthy, it was set to a lilting traditional tune called "The Irish Jaunting Car." Its catchy melody and simple chorus soon caught on with the Rebel troops, and **The Bonnie Blue Flag** became the second most popular song of the Confederacy.

THE VALIANT CONSCRIPT

To the tune of "Yankee Doodle" the Rebel soldiers made fun of the raw recruit who stumbled his way through the rigors of basic training. This comical narrative of a simple Southern plowboy and his dreams of glory is typical of the many humorous songs which were sung by the troops of both sides.

THE REBEL SOLDIER

Much of the war's bitter sadness is reflected in the melancholy lyrics of this lovely Southern Appalachian folk song, and Ernie's deep, rich baritone does full justice to its haunting melody. The tune was sung in several different versions, and after the war it found its way West to become the lusty cowboy ballad "Rye Whiskey."

THE SOUTHERN WAGON

Verses to this favorite, which was sung to the tune of "Wait For The Wagon," were constantly being changed and deleted as the political and military situation changed. This rollicking version urges the sons of the South to jump aboard the "dissolution wagon" and join the fight to "whip the Lincoln cutthroats."

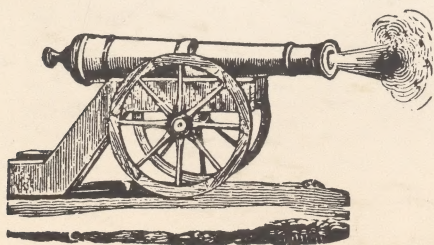
FLIGHT OF DOODLES

"Root Hog or Die" was a lively minstrel tune which was adapted to these lyrics in jubilant celebration of the Battle of Bull Run, the first major encounter of the war. Under the leadership of General Beauregard, the Confederate troops completely routed the Union forces, and the **Flight of Doodles** refers to the hasty retreat back to Washington by the Yankees.

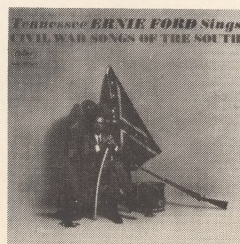
DIXIE

Composed by Dan Emmett as a minstrel "walk-around" in 1859, **Dixie's** popularity quickly swept across the Southern states as the Confederacy girded for war. The song lent itself readily to parody, and numerous adaptations of Emmett's tune sprang up in every part of the country. This stirring version was written by Brig. General Albert Pike of the Confederate Army, who had been a successful writer and newspaperman.

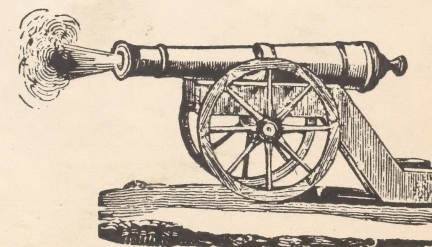
Produced by LEE GILLETTE



TENNESSEE ERNIE FORD sings
CIVIL WAR SONGS OF THE
NORTH (SJT-1539)



TENNESSEE ERNIE FORD sings
CIVIL WAR SONGS OF THE
SOUTH (SJT-1540)



Here is the dramatic story of the Civil War told in song by the inimitable Tennessee Ernie Ford. Two separate albums of authentic songs of both North and South, in a magnificent musical memorial to the War Between the States.

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TENNESSEE ERNIE FORD
SINGS CIVIL WAR
SONGS OF THE SOUTH
TENNESSEE ERNIE FORD
With Music By Jack Fascinato



T-1540
(T1-1540)

1

1. STONEWALL JACKSON'S WAY (3:06)
(Arranged by Ernest J. Ford-Jack Fascinato)
2. LORENA (4:11) (Arranged by Ernest J. Ford-Jack Fascinato)
3. RIDING A RAID (2:45) (Arranged by Ernest J. Ford-Jack Fascinato)
4. MARYLAND, MY MARYLAND (3:12)
(Arranged by Ernest J. Ford-Jack Fascinato)
5. GOOBER PEAS (3:15) (Arranged by Ernest J. Ford-Jack Fascinato)
6. I CAN WHIP THE SCOUNDREL (2:03) (Arranged by Ernest J. Ford-Jack Fascinato)

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TENNESSEE ERNIE FORD
SINGS CIVIL WAR
SONGS OF THE SOUTH
TENNESSEE ERNIE FORD


With Music By Jack Fascinato



T-1540
(T2-1540)

2

1. THE BONNIE BLUE FLAG (2:28) (Arranged by Ernest J. Ford-Jack Fascinato)
2. THE VALIANT CONSCRIPT (3:25) (Arranged by Ernest J. Ford-Jack Fascinato)
3. THE REBEL SOLDIER (3:43) (Arranged by Ernest J. Ford-Jack Fascinato)
4. THE SOUTHERN WAGON (3:02) (Arranged by Ernest J. Ford-Jack Fascinato)
5. FLIGHT OF DOODLES (2:14) (Arranged by Ernest J. Ford-Jack Fascinato)
6. DIXIE (2:18) (Arranged by Ernest J. Ford-Jack Fascinato)

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